

**Amendments to the Claims/ Listing of Claims:**

Please amend claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 21-23, cancel claims 17 and 18, and add claims 24-25 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for isolating normal hepatocytes, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) recovering liver tissue from a patient during a hepatectomy; and
  - (b) isolating normal hepatocytes from unwanted cells present in the recovered tissue by magnetic separation.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hepatectomy is performed to resect a liver, or a portion thereof, containing a benign or malignant tumour.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of removing macroscopic evidence of the tumour-affected tissue from the recovered liver tissue prior to the step of isolating the hepatocytes by magnetic separation.
4. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[to 3]] wherein the unwanted cells are tumour cells.
5. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[to 4]] wherein the magnetic separation of cells is achieved using superparamagnetic colloids coated with an antibody.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody which specifically recognises an epitope on the surface of the normal hepatocytes.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody which specifically recognises the unwanted cells.

8. (Original) A method of preparing hepatocytes for transplantation, the method comprising the steps of:

- (c) recovering liver tissue from a patient during a hepatectomy; and
- (d) isolating normal hepatocytes from unwanted cells present in the recovered tissue

by magnetic separation.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the hepatectomy is performed to resect a liver, or a portion thereof, containing a benign or malignant tumour.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of removing macroscopic evidence of the tumour-affected tissue from the recovered liver tissue prior to the step of isolating the hepatocytes by magnetic separation.

11. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 8 [[to 10]] wherein the unwanted cells are tumour cells.

12. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 8 [[to 11]] wherein the magnetic separation of cells is achieved using superparamagnetic colloids coated with an antibody.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody which specifically recognises an epitope on the surface of the normal hepatocytes.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody which specifically recognises the unwanted cells.

15. (Currently amended) Normal hepatocytes isolated according to the method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[to 7]].

16. (Currently amended) Normal hepatocytes prepared according to the method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 8 [[to 14]].

17-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for treating a liver disorder in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient normal hepatocytes isolated according to the method of ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 7 or prepared according to the method of any one of claims 8 to 14~~ in an amount and for a time sufficient to treat the liver disorder.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the liver disorder is selected from the group consisting of: Crigler-Najjar Syndrome; Gilbert's Syndrome; Dubin Johnson Syndrome; familial hypercholesterolemia; ornithine transcarbamoylase deficiency; hereditary emphysema; haemophilia; viral hepatitis; hepatocellular carcinoma; acute liver failure; and chronic liver failure.

21. (Currently amended) The use of An artificial liver support system comprising normal hepatocytes isolated according to the method of ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 7 in an artificial liver support system.~~

22. (Currently amended) The use of A method for isolating normal hepatocytes from resected liver tissue recovered during a hepatectomy, said method comprising isolating for the isolation of normal hepatocytes wherein the normal hepatocytes are isolated from unwanted cells in the resected tissue by magnetic separation.

23. (Currently amended) The use of resected liver tissue recovered during a hepatectomy for the preparation of hepatocytes for transplantation wherein A method of preparing normal hepatocytes for transplantation, said method comprising isolating normal hepatocytes, by magnetic separation, are isolated from unwanted cells in the resected liver tissue recovered during a hepatectomy by magnetic separation.

24. (New) A method for treating a liver disorder in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient normal hepatocytes prepared according to the method of claim 8 in an amount and for a time sufficient to treat the liver disorder.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the liver disorder is selected from the group consisting of: Crigler-Najar Syndrome; Gilbert's Syndrome; Dubin Johnson Syndrome; familial hypercholesterolemia; ornithine transcarbamoylase deficiency; hereditary emphysema; haemophilia; viral hepatitis; hepatocellular carcinoma; acute liver failure; and chronic liver failure.